DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0975/191722.01

Application No.: 09/099,742

Office Action Dated: August 9, 2004

PATENT REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 22, 27-30 and 33 remain in the application. Claims 1-8, 10, 12-20, 23-26, and 32 are canceled. Claims 1-8, 10, 12-20, 23-26 and 32 are rejected. Claim 22 is objected to. Claims 27-30 and 33 are allowed.

Claim Objections

Claim 22 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants are a bit confused by the objection and submit that it is in error. Claim 22 was previously amended into independent form. Applicants submit that claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1,3, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The examiner indicated that "The amended limitation is not supported by specification." Apparently, the reason given by the examiner that the specification is not supported is "[t]his disclosed limitation is not the same as claimed limitation as amended." Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that there is no legal test the requires a claimed limitation to be "the same" as a "disclosed limitation." Moreover, "limitations" are defined by the claims. Applicant is unaware of legal support for the proposition that a specification contains "limitations."

Nevertheless, applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 4-6, 13-18 without prejudice and retains the right to pursue the claims in a continuation application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3, 4-6, 13-18, stand rejected under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franaszek et al (US Patent No.5,729,228), in view of Bigham (US Patent No.5,544,161), and further in view of Rostoker et al (US Patent No. 5,872,784), and Auld (US Patent No. 5,686,965) and Schwartz et al. (US Patent No. 5,717,394).

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Applicants have canceled the claims without prejudice and reserve the right to pursue the claims in a continuation application. Hence, the current rejection is moot.

Claims 7-8, 10-12, 19-20, 23-26 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franaszek et al (US Patent No.5,729,228) in view of Bigham (US Patent No. 5,544,161), and further in view of Rostoker et al (US Patent No. 5,872,784), Auld (US Patent No. 5,686,965) and Schwartz et al (US Patent No. 5,717,394).

Applicants have canceled the claims without prejudice and reserve the right to pursue the claims in a continuation application. Hence, the current rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

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Applicants' representative submits that claims 22, 27-30 and 33 are in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited,

Date: October 8, 2004

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